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Sudan: [The new regime in Khartoum is firmly in control although its ultimate political orientation still is in doubt.]

[In the three weeks since it seized power, the government has faced no effective resistance, and none is in sight for the immediate future. The populace seems willing to give the regime a chance to fulfill its professed intentions.]

[Still at issue is the extent of Communist influence in the government. In terms of numbers the Communists' position would appear to be substantial, with a dozen or more top-level positions in both the cabinet and the military-dominated Revolutionary Council occupied by known Communists. The government, however, has tried to assure the populace of the "nationalist" aspirations of the revolution, probably out of fear of serious anti-Communist reaction if the new regime is widely touted as Communist.]

[The Sudanese Communist Party is certainly in the best position ever to gain real power. Some factions within the party, however, are concerned that close identification with the government could endanger the future of the party should a strong anti-Communist reaction occur. The party also continues to be troubled by internal dissensions, with some factions now attempting to oust the present secretary general.]

[The degree of pro-Egyptian influence in the regime also is still not clear. The pro-Egyptian element and Cairo itself find little comfort in a Communist regime in Sudan and will likely work to forestall such a development.]

[Whatever the ultimate orientation of the regime, it faces an almost insurmountable task in building a modern state. Sudan's economic backwardness, its racial, religious, and culturally divided populace, and its lack of political institutions will challenge this or any succeeding government.]

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